

1           47. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the plurality of  
2       program modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program  
3       module, and a fully-dependent program module.

1           48. (Once Amended) The program product of claim 30 [46], wherein the objective  
2       criteria includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

1           49. (Once Amended) A method of handling a computer task using an intelligent agent,  
2       the method comprising the steps of:

3           (a) based upon an objective criteria, selecting at least one selected program  
4       module from a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain  
5       knowledge] autonomy, wherein the plurality of program modules are each configured to  
6       handle a common computer task that includes conducting negotiations in an electronic  
7       commerce application; and

8           (b) configuring an intelligent agent to execute the at least one selected program  
9       module to handle the computer task.

1           62. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the plurality of program  
2       modules includes a semi-autonomous program module, a fully-autonomous program module, and  
3       a fully-dependent program module.

1           63. (Once Amended) The method of claim 49 [61], wherein the objective criteria  
2       includes a risk that a dispatched agent is subjected to in negotiations.

1           64. (Once Amended) An apparatus for handling a computer task, comprising:  
2        a memory; and

3        an intelligent agent resident in the memory, the intelligent agent including at least  
4       one of a plurality of program modules having varied degrees of [domain knowledge]